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Subject: Imnaha/Lostine proposed roadside logging projects

As a citizen and therefore part owner of the Public Lands....and doing my duty as a steward and citizen I have to object to the USFS plan to cut trees along the Imnaha River Road....the Lostine Road...and in fact along any and all USFS roads.

This practice of cutting 'hazard' trees has been an unmitigated farce and travesty, not based on science nor common sense. It has gone on for decades with no real science or studies being conducted to verify the practice. Further, it controverts the intent of the Management Plan. Additionally, large signs proclaiming the proposed project and photos of similar projects should be posted for one year and ask for comments by people who use the road.

I am requesting that the project be put on hold indefinitely---or at least until next year, 2017. (If the USFS wants to check this concepts validity, they can unobtrusively mark trees they think might fall or should be removed...and then see how many actually do.)

The Public---whose land this is--- seek out and enjoy scenic values, scenic roadsides, and are not clamoring for roadside trees to be cut. How many people have been injured or killed by roadside or campground trees? I want the number and situations? High winds? Wet snow storms? Almost never?

I would like to be emailed the science that shows how these trees are chosen to be cut or left. Who is trained to make the determination, who marks the trees, and on what basis any of this occurs.

Are the trees to be left or removed? If they are removed, where do they go? Who get the trees in the end?

A typical justification is that logging promotes a fire break. The studies have shown that there exists a very narrow set of parameters where a fuel break makes much of a difference. In very mild fire conditions it is easy to put fires out. In severe conditions, it virtually impossible. So only in the rare situation where the middle-ground situation exists MIGHT reduced fuels be of any use. Is that a good enough reason to cut and/or remove trees from places valued for the scenery? Is it even appropriate to consider on Wild and Scenic River corridors? I do not think so.

The Public so wants to see old trees, healthy, old, dying, dead,they have protected the concept in the very Plan for this area:

...conservation of scenic...values contributing to the public benefit;"

"...preservation...of all features and peculiarities believed to be biologically unique, including but not limited to...rare combinations of...terrestrial habitats and the rare combinations of outstanding and diverse ecosystems and parts of ecosystems associated therewith."

Put this project on hold, re-evaluate it, or just scrap it. At the very least, postpone it until the Public has more time to comment and guide the agency that they trust to protect the Forest---not just cut it down.

I am asking for the same science and guidelines for the proposed project on the Lostine River Rd.

It is time to reassess past practices, listen to the general public....not just a few locals....and base practices on science. AND, to embrace the concept you want Doctors to use on your own health---"first, do no harm."

*Thank you,
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